

What is claimed is:

1. A system for producing a crop with certified characteristics, comprising the steps of:
  - a) negotiating a contract between a grower and a buyer to provide a crop with specified characteristics;
  - 5 b) inputting the specified characteristics into a secure database;
  - c) planting a crop with seeds which satisfy said specified characteristics;
  - d) inputting crop statistics during the growing cycle of the crop to said secure database;
  - e) auditing said crop statistics by an auditor to certify that said crop statistics are accurate;
  - 10 f) entering an auditing report into said secure database to compare said auditing report to said specified characteristics; and,
  - g) publishing said crop statistics and said auditing report from said secure database to said buyer.

15 2. The system of claim 1 where said secure database is hosted by a third party.

3. The system of claim 2 where said auditor is an independent auditor.

4. The system of claim 3 wherein said grower sub-contracts a testing laboratory to test certain  
20 crop characteristics.

5. The system of claim 3 wherein said independent auditor has read-only privileges to said crop statistics information.

6. The system of claim 3 wherein said independent auditor is paid by said third party.

7. The system of claim 3 wherein said independent auditor is paid by said buyer.

5 8. The system of claim 2 wherein said buyer has read-only privileges to said crop statistics information and said auditing report information.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein said buyer has real time access to said crop statistics in said secure database during the crop growing cycle.

10 10. The system of claim 1 further comprising installing an electronics package at the growing location of said crop.

11. The system of claim 10 wherein said auditor inputs audit results to said electronics package.

12. The system of claim 1 wherein said crop statistics includes genetic information about the seeds used and genetic information about the final crop product.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein said crop statistics includes information about the crop  
20 selected from the following: chemicals used on the crop, weather information at specified times during the growing cycle, information about previous crops planted in the same crop location, and adjacent land use information.

14. The system of claim 13 wherein said crop statistics includes inspection records for the containers and machines used with the crop.

15. A system for selling a crop with certified characteristics, comprising the steps of:

- a) choosing to provide a crop from a grower with specified characteristics;
- b) inputting the specified characteristics into a secure database;
- c) inputting crop statistics during the growing cycle of the crop to said secure database;
- d) auditing said crop statistics by an auditor to certify that said crop statistics satisfy said specified crop characteristics; and,
- e) publishing said certified crop statistics from said secure database for auction to one or more potential buyers.

16. The system of claim 15 where said secure database is hosted by a third party.

17. The system of claim 16 where said auditor is an independent auditor.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein said independent auditor is paid by said third party.

19. The system of claim 18 wherein said independent auditor is paid by said buyer.

20. The system of claim 15 further comprising installing an electronics package at the growing location of said crop.

21. The system of claim 20 wherein said auditor inputs audit results to said electronics package.

22. A system for buying a crop with certified characteristics, comprising the steps of:

- a) inputting a buyer's specified characteristics for a desired crop into a secure database;
- b) publishing said specified characteristics from said secure database to a number of potential growers;
- c) using said secure database to arrange a contract between the buyer and a grower to grow a crop satisfying said specified characteristics;
- d) planting a crop which satisfies said specified characteristics;
- e) inputting crop statistics during the growing cycle of the crop to said secure database;
- f) auditing said crop statistics to certify that said crop statistics are accurate;
- g) entering an auditing report into said secure database for comparison of said auditing report to said specified characteristics; and,
- h) publishing said crop statistics and said auditing report from said secure database to said buyer.